



## SACRAMENTO COUNTY FARM BUREAU

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June 29, 1998

Lester A. Snow  
Executive Director  
CALFED  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Snow:

While the Sacramento County Farm Bureau Board of Directors supports CAFFED's lofty goals of improving the quality and supply of water in the Delta and enhancing the ecosystem there are glowing major concerns that are not addressed in the Programmatic EIS/EIR that greatly affect the viability of agriculture. It is very difficult to support a project that openly devastates one major economic segment of the states largest industry for the sake of another segment. Truly this is not a win-win situation as the CALFED Project is currently presented.

The Delta has some of the richest farm land in the world. The removal of 200,000-500,000 productive acres would be more devastating to Delta agriculture than any urban growth plan. It would literally destroy local economies due to the loss of crop values, supporting businesses, jobs and a tax basis. It appears the most heavily impacted counties would be Sacramento and San Joaquin. It is unacceptable that the Programmatic EIR/EIS only casually references the economic impact to the Delta communities. The economic impact must be thoroughly analyzed and presented, in detail, in Phase II. The public needs to see dollars and cents and not just generalities.

It should be emphasized that agriculture throughout the Delta already plays an important part in providing habitat and food for many species especially waterfowl. This fact is totally ignored in the Programmatic EIR/EIS.

Another concern is the possible isolation of the Delta by moving water around the Delta as depicted in the Alternative Plans. First and foremost, a constant common pool of quality water must be maintained to allow water to flow through the Delta to protect the ecosystem, support agriculture and recreation and for urban use, before moving water to southern California.

The Programmatic EIR/EIS Alternative Plans fail to adequately address additional water supplies. In order to keep water moving through the Delta and to have sufficient water for all uses, including agriculture, it is blatantly obvious that additional water supplies are

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needed. Conservation alone cannot supply the needs for all uses and for future generations. Water storage is a key to the success of the project. Phase II must include a thorough study of water storage be it off stream, on stream or ground water recharge.

Millions upon millions of dollars will be spent to fix the Delta system and to restore the ecosystems. This effort will be futile and the expenditure of tax dollars will be wasted unless water supply and water availability are major components of the CALFED BAY-DELTA PROJECT.

Lastly there must be assurances that water rights will not be lost and that 3<sup>rd</sup> party impacts will be addressed.

It is important to emphasize that all of these items must be addressed in Phase II of the CALFED BAY-DELTA PROJECT. At several of the meetings that Sacramento County Farm Bureau members attended it was emphasized by Cal Fed staff that all of the questions and concerns being raised by speakers would be addressed. If these major agricultural issues are not addressed we will have no alternative to vigorously oppose the CALFED BAY-DELTA PROJECT.

Sincerely,



Mike Wackman  
President

c: Congressman Richard Pombo  
Senator Maurice Johannessen  
Assemblyman Larry Bowler  
Supervisor Don Nottoli  
Bill Pauli, President California Farm Bureau Federation  
SCFB Board of Directors



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